

Domestic Abuse Action Plan 2020-2023



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

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OFFICE OF THE **POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER** NORTH WALES

Message from Chief Constable

Hello and welcome to our Force Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan 2020 - 2023. Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read this document. Its purpose is to outline to our communities and partners how we intend to continuously improve our approach to domestic abuse across North Wales.

Domestic Abuse is a priority for North Wales Police and the actions contained within the plan demonstrate our ambition and commitment to embed our response to this heinous crime throughout the entire hierarchy of the organisation and be the best we can possibly be in protecting victims of this type of abuse in our communities.

You will see at the heart of the plan is Leadership and Governance. The Police and Crime Commissioner and I are committed through his Police and Crime Plan to providing the appropriate training and resources to tackle domestic abuse. In return we expect the highest quality of service and will jointly scrutinise what is and isn't working both internally and externally to ensure a holistic service to victims across north Wales.

We cannot, of course, address the deeply entrenched and complex reasons behind domestic abuse alone. We need the buy in of our partners, both statutory and third sector, into the plan to achieve success. Just as importantly we need the buy in of our communities across all diverse and ethnic groups to help protect the vulnerable in their midst so I hope you will all join me in adopting both the ethos and the specifics of the plan in order to make North Wales the safest place in the UK.

Thank you



Carl Foulkes

Chief Constable



Message from Crime Commissioner

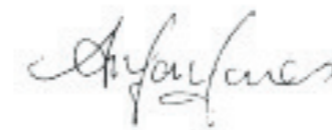
As the Chief Constable states Domestic Abuse is one of the priorities for North Wales, and rightly so. It is happening every day, in every part of the UK, including North Wales. Every day North Wales Police record an average of 26 domestic incidents. Over the past seven years, 936 women were killed by men in England and Wales.

Domestic Abuse is the highest risk facing North Wales Police due to the broad impact on the victim (physical, psychological and financial), the number of recorded crimes and an increasing trend. It is therefore imperative that as well as being a policing priority that we have a comprehensive Action Plan which seeks to continuously improve our response to Domestic Abuse.

We are fortunate in North Wales that we have a third sector of dedicated and experienced people ready to support our victims. Working together in effective partnership forms the core of my Police and Crime Plan and as the issues arising out of cases involving domestic abuse are often much wider than just policing, I firmly believe that an effective response can only be delivered in partnership.

Domestic Abuse should not be tolerated and work will continue across all partner agencies to target offenders, challenge dangerous perceptions, raise awareness, encourage victims to come forward and provide the right support to them when they do.

Through my role in commissioning support services for victims of Domestic Abuse in North Wales, I will continue to ensure they are tailored to their needs with the responses they require.



Arfon Jones

Police and Crime Commissioner



DOMESTIC ABUSE ACTIONS 2020-2023



TECHNOLOGY

1. Body Worn Video (BWV) will be made available to all staff attending incidents of domestic abuse thereby maximising evidential opportunities.
2. We will encourage the prompt signposting of victims/survivors using mobile technology.
3. In conjunction with DEWIS we will ensure that victims can access a variety of support networks.
4. We will ensure that those victims exposed to increased risk are able to contact police promptly and discretely.



TRAINING

1. Mandatory DA Matters training will be delivered to all frontline staff.
2. We will introduce bespoke training for Domestic Abuse Officers (DAO's) who have contact with those who are most vulnerable in our community.
3. Using external awareness campaigns we will continue to highlight the signs of domestic abuse (including coercive and controlling behaviour) to communities in an effort to encourage wider safeguarding.
4. Learning identified within Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's) will be shared across the Force and where necessary guidance documents revised.
5. Recognising the established links between DA and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) staff will be trained to identify opportunities for early intervention.



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

1. We will use Operation Encompass to share information with schools so that children witnessing domestic abuse are supported in a timely and appropriate manner.
2. As a member of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategic Board we are committed to preventing all forms of violence, improving services for survivors and ensuring that long term support is available.
Click here to view **Strategy 2018-2023** document
3. We will continue to work closely with our statutory partners to ensure that information is shared lawfully and proportionately recognising that domestic abuse cannot be resolved by police alone.
4. We will continue to work with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to understand referral and prosecution data to ensure continuous improvement.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Domestic Abuse truly is everyone's business. We will ensure that it remains a force-wide priority supported by effective leadership



INVESTIGATIONS

1. We will ensure that Domestic Abuse investigations are assigned to staff that have the appropriate skills and training.
2. We will ensure that victims have contact from our dedicated Domestic Abuse Officers (DAO's) when proportionate and necessary.
3. We will record the views and wishes of the victim/survivor within Victim Impact Statements and reflect these within case presentation.
4. Using risk assessment tools at the first point of contact and throughout the investigation, we will identify the most appropriate interventions to mitigate risk.
5. Staff will work with victims maintaining regular contact, in recognition of the Victims Code of Practice.



THE VOICE OF THE VULNERABLE

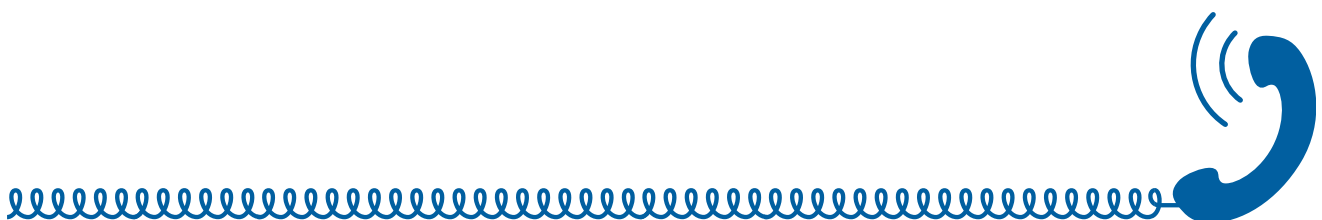
1. We will encourage staff to capture the voice of the child or vulnerable adult by engaging with them throughout the investigation and observing their behaviour and demeanour.
2. We will prompt officers at first contact to record the voice of the vulnerable so that this may be shared with partners who may also be able to provide additional support.



POSITIVE AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION

1. We will take positive action when dealing with reported incidents of domestic abuse, making use of powers in a robust and timely manner.
2. We will make effective use of bail conditions, Domestic Violence Protection Orders, Restraining Orders and disclosure schemes to help prevent further offences.
3. We will make use of Stalking Prevention Orders to prevent further trauma to victims and promote long term safeguarding.
4. We will encourage engagement with repeat perpetrators to change their behaviour in order to prevent reoffending.

- Dewis Cymru, your one stop shop for local services available to you. **www.dewis.wales**
- Live Fear Free Helpline: **0808 80 10 800**
- National Stalking Helpline: **0808 802 0300**
- Victim Help Centre North Wales: **0300 3030 159**
- Childline: **0800 1111**
- Men's Advice Line: **0808 8010 327**
- Samaritans: **116 123**
- Action on Elder Abuse: **0808 8088 141**
- Galop (LGBT+ anti-violence charity): **0800 999 5428**
- BAWSO (Black Association Women Step Out): **0800 7318 147**
- RESPECT Helpline (concerned about your behaviour towards your partner and want to stop?): **0808 8024 040**
- Karma Nirvana (supporting victims of honour crimes and forced marriages): **0800 5999 247**





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